

STATINTL

Senate Inquiries Into CIA Role In U.S. Foreign Policy Are Urged

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 29—The doggedly silent but free-spending and ubiquitous Central Intelligence Agency, this nation's far-flung apparatus for collecting information and influencing events, came under fire in Congress this week.

Two Democratic Senators, Eugene J. McCarthy, Wisconsin, and Stephen M. Young, Ohio, on Monday urged on the Senate floor separate measures aimed at bringing the CIA and its activities under closer surveillance.

Young's attack was harsh. He spoke of fiascos, mistakes and bungling. He said American prestige had suffered because of such affairs as "the stupid and disastrous role which CIA operatives played in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion."

Cites High Spending

The CIA, Young said, was given no power to formulate foreign policy when established by Congress in 1947 but it now spends more money than the Department of State and at times has more real influence in handling important problems.

"While I realize that officials of the CIA cannot announce their triumphs," Young said, "the record of their serious mistakes or misjudgments is impressive."

He said he believed that the CIA was overstaffed and was spending too much of the taxpayers' money, but he could not prove it. One of the troubles, he said, is that there is no effective congressional scrutiny of an agency that spends hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

Continuing Study

Young proposed that Congress set up a joint committee that would make a continuing study and investigation of the CIA's activities and operations.

The approach of Senator McCarthy to the CIA, which has been called "the invisible government," was in more gentle style although it raised serious questions about the way in which the agency had conducted itself.

McCarthy pointed out that in the nearly 20 years of the CIA's life it never had been subjected to formal review by Congress and never had had to give an accounting, in the sense that other federal agencies do as a matter of routine.

Although McCarthy emphasized that he was not opposed to the concept of the CIA and the necessity for having such an organization, he said the agency's role in the Dominican Republic and in Viet Nam had raised questions about its relationship to the making and directions of American foreign policy.

Said to Influence Policy

"I believe there is significant evidence that the CIA not only carries out policy but, in some respects, it has become a positive and significant influence on the policy itself," he said.

McCarthy introduced a resolution that proposed creation of a sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, of which he is a member.

The subcommittee would "make a full and complete study of the effects of the operations and activities of the Central Intelligence Agency upon the foreign relations of the United States" and report its findings not later than Jan. 31 next year.

Senator McCarthy said his resolution was not anti-CIA and that the effect of the congressional inquiry might well be to strengthen the CIA as an arm of government.

No Formal Preview

"Since there has been no formal review," he said, "it has not been possible to determine whether a valid basis exists for criticism of the agency, or to prevent what appears to be distortions of policy or to dispel rumors surrounding the activities of the CIA."

What might come out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee inquiry, Senator McCarthy believes, is a report recommending that congressional committees dealing with foreign policy take a regular look at the CIA as it relates to their field.

At the present time, the Senate and House Military Affairs Committees have special CIA

subcommittees that deal with the agency and are kept informed, in theory at least, of what it is doing.

But the Senate Foreign Relations and the House Foreign Affairs committees do not have special CIA subgroups even though it is obvious that CIA activities are related to the nation's policies abroad.

CIA Budget A Secret

Nowhere in the United States budget for 1967, made public recently, can be found the outlay for CIA reported unofficially to be in excess of \$500,000,000 a year. But the CIA does touch base with Congress, however adequately, in various ways.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's CIA subcommittee, of which Senator Richard B. Russell (Dem.), Georgia, is chairman, has five members and met eight times last year in closed session. Senator Stuart Symington (Dem.), Missouri, has just been named to the subcommittee.

On the House side, the CIA subcommittee has 10 members headed by the Armed Services Committee chairman, South Carolina's L. Mendel Rivers. It meets about once a month. One of the members is Representative Melvin Price (Dem.), Illinois.

Just how much these subcommittees are told by the CIA, and how closely and critically the members question CIA representatives, must remain obscure because of the secret nature of the CIA's work. Other members of Congress are as much in the dark as are the press and the public.

Tribute From Symington

Missouri's Senator Symington, who holds seats on the Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, is emphatically not among the CIA's detractors. On Jan. 14, after a trip to Southeast Asia, he paid tribute to the agency.

Symington told the Senate he had been briefed extensively by the CIA before departure and had talked in detail with CIA representatives in the countries he visited, and with American ambassadors. He said he had found no instances in which CIA activities were uncontrolled or contrary to United States policy.

The Missouri Senator expressed his agreement with Secretary of State Dean Rusk's

praise of the CIA and added his own testimonial, as follows:

"The Central Intelligence Agency has a difficult and, at times, a very dangerous mission to perform. Not all men or women of this or any other agency are perfect, and it is easy to criticize any group which cannot defend itself because of the nature of its work.

"Nevertheless it is my considered judgment that the American public should be proud of this organization and its people, a group who serve our country with unstinting devotion."

Praised By Kennedy

The CIA had warmly laudatory comment from the late President John F. Kennedy. Under the law, the CIA is responsible to the President and its work is reviewed by various agencies, including the National Security Council, the Budget Bureau and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

President Kennedy established the board in 1961 right after the Bay of Pigs episode. It is made up of distinguished civilians. The chairman is former Missourian Clark M. Clifford, a Washington attorney.

Clifford's board meets about once a month and its members go abroad at least once a year.

As for making policy, high nongovernment sources close to the intelligence community insist that the CIA is not guilty of anything like that now and has not done any free-wheeling for at least five years, whatever might have been true in the past.

Nevertheless, there are many who believe, like Senator McCarthy and Senator Young, that the huge organization with its massive headquarters across the Potomac at Langley, Va., ought to be brought under more meaningful control by Congress.

For Senator McCarthy this is part of a broader concern that Congress has responsibilities in the field of foreign policy that it must meet fully as part of its duties under the Constitution.